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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/799,501	03/11/2004	Hideo Eda	43521-1900	8281

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EXAMINER

BERHANU, ETSUB D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3768

DATE MAILED: 04/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/799,501

Applicant(s)

EDA ET AL.

Examiner

Etsub D. Berhanu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07/19/2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/19/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609.04(a) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1, 10, 11 and 13 are objected to because of the following informalities: --volume-- should be added after "blood" and before "amount" in claims 1, 10, 11 and 13; a colon should be added after "comprising" in line 1 of claim 1. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claim 13 fails to clearly disclose positively recited method steps. It is suggested that the claim be amended to include the phrase "A method for measuring strategy acquisition comprising:" and further include the terms "measuring", "producing" and "determining".

Double Patenting

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

7. Claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 13 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 5-8 of copending Application No. 10/696797. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because a device and method satisfying the limitations of claims 5-8 of the copending application would also meet claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 13 of the instant application. It is noted that measuring a degree of acquisition, as disclosed in the copending application, includes measuring strategy acquisition, since being able to solve a work (acquisition of knowledge) requires a subject to know how to solve a work or to find a clue to solve a work (strategy acquisition).

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-8 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoshi et al. in “Near-Infrared Optical”.

Hoshi et al. discloses a method of detecting brain activation during mental tasks comprising: chronologically measuring the amount of oxyhemoglobin and deoxyhemoglobin in a predetermined measuring region of a brain of a subject with the use of near-infrared spectroscopy, wherein the predetermined measuring region is the frontal lobe of the subject, and producing diachronic change data of oxyhemoglobin and deoxyhemoglobin (see SUBJECTS AND METHODS section on pages 292-293); and determining a degree of acquisition of work based on the diachronic change data (see second paragraph in right column of page 294 discussing Figure 4). Hoshi et al. further discloses making observations regarding the time change data at the time when a subject solved a work (line 3 of Figures 1-6), and the time change data one minute prior to a subject solving a work (paragraph 1, left col., page 295). This indicates that strategy acquisition data was determined based on the time change data.

Hoshi et al. further discloses a device used to implement the method discussed above. The first three paragraphs of the SUBJECTS AND METHODS section disclose a device comprising: a measuring portion that measures the amount of oxyhemoglobin and deoxyhemoglobin in the frontal lobe of a patient, wherein the measuring portion uses near-infrared spectroscopy (right col., page 292); and a calculating portion that calculates relative changes in oxyhemoglobin and deoxyhemoglobin concentrations through time (left col., page 293), displaying the changes in the form of a waveform (Figures 1-6). It is noted that each of the NIRS instruments disclosed in the second paragraph of the SUBJECTS AND METHODS sections is a one-channel instrument. It is further noted that the time when a subject solves a work is displayed on the waveform.

Regarding claims 10-12, Hoshi et al. discloses that the time change data output by the waveform output portion is calculated based on baseline values, wherein the baseline values are calculated while the subject is in a resting state, and further, the time change data is a difference between these baseline values and measured values while work is being performed (last paragraph of SUBJECT AND METHODS section).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoshi et al., as applied to claim 1, further in view of Barker'618 (US Application No. 2004/0100618).

Hoshi et al. discloses all the elements of the current invention, as discussed in paragraph 10, except for a fixing means to fix a head portion of a subject.

Barker'618 teaches the use of a head restraint to avoid undesired movements of a patient during an optical examination (page 1, section [0003]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the device of Hoshi et al. to include a head restraint, as taught by Barker'618, since it would eliminate undesired head movements of a subject during testing.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Baird et al. in "Frontal Lobe" discloses the use of near-infrared spectroscopy data to observe changes in oxyhemoglobin and deoxyhemoglobin concentration during object permanence.

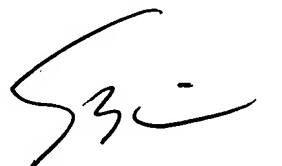
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Etsub D. Berhanu whose telephone number is 571.272.6563. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (Every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eleni Mantis-Mercader can be reached on (571)272-4740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EDB



ERIC F. WINAKUR
PRIMARY EXAMINER